

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INFORMATIONAL HEARING AND INTENT TO REVOKE/REISSUE A WISCONSIN POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (WPDES) PERMIT No. WI-0050521-09-0

Permittee: Baker Cheese Factory Inc., N5279 County Road G, St Cloud, WI, 53079

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: Baker Cheese Factory Inc., N5279 County Road G, St. Cloud

Receiving Water And Location: a wetland tributary to the Mullet River, Sheboygan River Watershed (SH03) and groundwater in the Sheboygan River Basin via land application and absorption pond seepage in Fond du Lac County

Brief Facility Description: This facility produces mozzarella cheese. This activity results in the discharge of 11,000 gallons per day of noncontact cooling water and boiler blowdown to an absorption pond via outfall 002. Process wastewater is currently generated at a rate of 50,000 to 60,000 gallons per day and this is all hauled to municipal treatment plants for treatment and disposal. Baker Cheese is proposing to construct a treatment plant on-site and discharge this volume to a new surface water outfall named 003. If Baker Cheese decides to condense its whey on-site, discharge flows to outfall 003 would increase by another 100,000 to 150,000 gallons per day on average. All whey is currently hauled to other facilities for further processing. Land application outfall 001 is retained from the current permit to allow land application of industrial wastewater and outfall 004 will be added that will allow land application of wastewater biosolids resulting from the wastewater treatment process.

Permit Drafter's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Nanette E. Jameson, 2984 Shawano Avenue, Green Bay, WI, 54313-6727, (920) 662-5174, nan.jameson@wisconsin.gov

Basin Engineer's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Mark Stanek, 625 E County Road Y, Suite 700, Oshkosh, WI 54901, (920) 424-7895, mark.stanek@wisconsin.gov

Reason For Revocation: This facility has been hauling their process wastewater to municipal wastewater treatment plants for disposal at substantial cost for hauling & treatment. They have decided to construct their own on-site wastewater treatment facility in order to treat and discharge the process wastewater to surface water via new outfall 003. Noncontact cooling water and boiler blow-down water shall continue to be discharged to an absorption pond, and two outfalls are in the permit to accommodate land application of process wastewater and wastewater treatment plant biosolids. The current permit expires December 31, 2016, so from an administrative aspect, revocation of the current permit & reissuance of the next permit is preferred, over modification of the current permit which is relatively close to expiration. The reissued permit has been drafted with a proposed expiration date of December 31, 2019. Compliance with NR 150, Environmental Analysis and Review Procedures, has been demonstrated as an equivalent analysis. This action does not require additional environmental analysis under this chapter because a detailed environmental analysis and public disclosure are conducted as part of the department programmatic procedure.

The Department has tentatively decided that the above specified WPDES permit should be revoked and reissued.

Limitations and conditions which the Department believes adequately protect the receiving water are included in the proposed permit. Land application of waste shall be done in accordance with permit conditions and applicable codes. All land application sites shall be approved prior to their use. To receive a list of approved sites, or to be notified of potential approvals, contact the above named basin engineer.

Hearing Date, Time, and Location: Wednesday, November 19, 2014, 4:00 pm, Town of Forest Town Hall, N5739 County Road W, Mt. Calvary, WI 53057

Hearing Officer, Name, Address, City/State/Zip, and Phone: Jay Schiefelbein, WDNR, 2984 Shawano Avenue, Green Bay, WI 54313-6727, (920) 662-5130

The Department of Natural Resources, pursuant to Section 283.49, Wisconsin Statutes, has scheduled for the time and place listed above, a public hearing for the purpose of giving all interested persons an opportunity to make a statement with respect to the above announced permit action for this existing and additional new discharge.

A hearing officer will conduct the hearing in an orderly and speedy way and will use procedures specified in Subchapter II of ch. NR 203, Wis. Adm. Code, necessary to insure broad public participation in the hearing.

The hearing officer will open the hearing and make a concise statement of the scope and purpose of the hearing and shall state what procedures will be used during the course of the hearing. The hearing officer shall explain the method of notification of the final decision to grant or deny the permit and the methods by which the decision may be reviewed in a public adjudicatory hearing.

The hearing officer may put limits on individual oral statements to insure an opportunity for all persons present to make statements in a reasonable period of time and to prevent undue repetition. The hearing officer may also limit the number of representatives making oral statements on behalf of any person or group.

Informational and clarifying questions and oral statements shall be directed through the hearing officer. Cross-examination shall not be allowed.

Persons wishing to comment on or object to the proposed permit action are invited to do so by attending the public hearing or by submitting any comments or objections in writing to the Department of Natural Resources, at the above named permit drafter's address. All comments or suggestions received from members of the public no later than 7 days following the date of this public hearing will be used, along with other information on file and testimony presented at the hearing, in making a final determination. Where designated as a reviewable surface water discharge permit, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is allowed up to 90 days to submit comments or objections regarding this permit determination.

Information on file for this permit action, including the draft permit, fact sheet (if required), and permit application, may be inspected and copied at either the above named permit drafter's office or the above named basin engineer's office, Monday through Friday (except holidays), between 9:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Please call the permit drafter or basin engineer for directions to their office location, if necessary. Information on this permit action may also be obtained by calling the permit drafter at (920) 662-5174 or by writing to the Department. Reasonable costs (usually 20 cents per page) will be charged for copies of information in the file other than the public notice and fact sheet. Permit information is also available on the internet at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wastewater/PublicNotices.html>. Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, reasonable accommodation, including the provision of informational material in an alternative format, will be made to qualified individuals upon request.

The Reporter, PO Box 630, Fond du Lac, WI 54935-0630

Date Notice Issued: October 15, 2014